



# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge *Planning Update #4/Summer 2007*

### Become a Volunteer!

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge enjoys the dedicated support from a growing corps of volunteers who help in many ways, from assisting with environmental education programs and festivals to bird surveys and refuge restoration days.

The refuge is always looking for help. Please contact Amy Hopperstad at (916) 775-4421 for more information.



*Wildlife viewing is a popular attraction on the Refuge for viewers of all ages.*



*Youth and adults have an opportunity for waterfowl hunting on the Refuge, at the South Stone Lakes Unit.*

### Greetings from the Refuge Manager

#### *Comprehensive Conservation Plan Receives Final Approval*

We are pleased to announce that the refuge comprehensive conservation planning process is now complete. On January 5, 2007 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service signed the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) adopting Alternative B, the preferred alternative, described in the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). You can find the CCP and related documents online at: [www.fws.gov/stonelakes/planning.htm](http://www.fws.gov/stonelakes/planning.htm) and at local public libraries, or you can request a copy by contacting the Refuge or the California/Nevada Operations Refuge Planning Office.

Signing the FONSI signifies that the planning process is complete and implementation of the selected alternative may begin. The results of this important multi-year process will guide overall Refuge management for the next 15 years.

The planning team very much appreciates the many comments and suggestions you have made throughout the planning process. Your involvement has truly helped to make our CCP a community-based template for management and growth. We will continue to call on you to participate as we implement management programs and create future step-down plans.

Change is part of the refuge landscape. After 16 years of guiding the Refuge through its infancy and development into a growing urban refuge, Refuge Manager Tom Harvey left California to take a new position, as a Refuge Supervisor, in the Service's southwest Regional Office in Albuquerque, NM. Realization of the CCP will help us honor Tom's devotion to this vision for the Refuge.

Please feel free to contact us and make time to visit us to enjoy some of our expanding public involvement opportunities.

I wish to thank everyone that has assisted in the development of our CCP over the years!

Beatrix Treiterer, Acting Refuge Manager

## Alternative B Selected

*The CCP will guide changes in refuge management*

The objectives and strategies, previously described as Alternative B, will guide Refuge management and decision-making in the coming years. This Alternative calls for continuing efforts to manage and restore wetland, riparian, and grassland habitats with increased opportunities for public use.

Specific management actions will allow the Refuge to maintain and restore habitats to support numerous Federal and State listed sensitive species and overall biodiversity in a region challenged by the demands of growth and development. In general, visitor opportunities to enjoy the Refuge will be expanded as long as they are compatible with the Refuge's purposes, and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Compatibility determinations were completed for numerous visitor services (see Appendix A of the CCP). The following uses were found to be compatible with stipulations: boat fishing, wildlife observation and photography, environmental education and interpretation, recreational boating (associated with the above uses), research, plant gathering, mosquito monitoring and control, and grazing. High speed boating was found to be not compatible with the Refuge's purposes.

## Visitor Opportunities Expanded

*Popular recreational activities to increase*

Public meetings and input revealed a high demand for greater access to the Refuge. Alternative B outlines several changes in response to public suggestions including:

In 2008, the Refuge will begin constructing a series of trails, informational kiosks and observation areas and develop programs for the public to observe, photograph, and enjoy the Refuge wildlife and habitats seven days a week at the Headquarters Unit.

Within five years the Refuge will also develop environmental education and interpretive programs that will help visitors learn about unique Central Valley habitats and wildlife.

The Refuge is also working to develop parking areas and launch facilities for canoe/kayak trails where visitors can also fish and observe wildlife. These facilities will include accessible features for those with disabilities. Due to the high demand for hunting on the Refuge, in 2004 the Service began a planning process for a public waterfowl hunt program on the South Stone Lake Unit of the Refuge. The first waterfowl hunt occurred during the 2005-2006 hunt season and will continue to be a part of the public uses offered at the Refuge.

## Where You Can Find the CCP

*There are three easy ways to see the CCP*

Here is how to review/receive a copy of the CCP:

- Call the Refuge or the CA/NV Refuge Planning Office to have a copy mailed to you (see contact information below).
- Download a copy from the Refuge website : [www.fws.gov/stonelakes/](http://www.fws.gov/stonelakes/)
- Visit your local library. Printed copies of the CCP are available at the following libraries: Sacramento Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814; Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95864; Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento, CA 95822; Elk Grove Library, 8962 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624; Clarksburg Yolo County Library, 52915 Netherlands Road, Clarksburg, CA 95612; Colonial Heights Library, 4799 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95820; Courtland Library Neighborhood Library, 170 Primasing Avenue, Courtland, CA 95615; and the Galt Branch Library (Marian O. Lawrence Library), 1000 Caroline Avenue, Galt, CA 95632.

## Please Feel Free to Contact Us!

We are available to provide additional information about the CCP and the planning process. Fee free to call, write, e-mail, or come to see us.

### Beatrix Treiterer, Acting Project Leader

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

1624 Hood-Franklin Road

Elk Grove, CA 95757

916/775-4421 phone

916/775-4407 fax

[Beatrix\\_Treiterer@fws.gov](mailto:Beatrix_Treiterer@fws.gov)

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday

7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### David Bergendorf, Refuge Planner

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service CA/NV

Refuge Planning Office

2800 Cottage Way, W-1832

Sacramento, CA 95825

916/414-6503 phone

[David\\_Bergendorf@fws.gov](mailto:David_Bergendorf@fws.gov)